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A.—(*a*) Piece-workers of the Government Press memorialized the Government thrice during 1927. The memorials were carefully considered by Government and the concessions granted are detailed in the answer given to Question No. 1703 at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 13th March 1928.

(*b*) The Government have no reason to suppose that there is unnecessary friction between the Superintendent and the employees of the Government Press.

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*) of this question, may I know on what data they have come to that conclusion ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" Because there is nothing to the contrary."

Grant of casual leave to piece-workers in the Government Press.

* 141 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether there was a proposal in 1928 that piece-workers in the Government Press may be granted casual leave for 15 days based on average earnings and why the proposal was negatived by the Government ?

A.—No such proposal has been received by Government.

Qualifications of Mr. Lepper, Assistant Superintendent of the Government Press.

* 142 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : With reference to the answers to the supplementary questions on Question No. 769 answered on 31st March 1927, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what qualifications Mr. Lepper, the Assistant Superintendent of the Government Press, possesses for the post he holds ;

(*b*) whether he has passed any special examination ; and

(*c*) why he has been given a higher starting salary and a higher scale of annual increment than his superior officer, the Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Green ?

A.—(*a*) Practical experience in large printing presses in England and in the Madras Government Press.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The pay allowed to Mr. Lepper was the minimum pay for which a suitable candidate could be secured on a five years' contract.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know what attempts were made by Government to see whether a suitable person on a lower salary could be got for the post ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" At present, no attempt is being made."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" Cannot an Indian be appointed to this vacancy ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur : —" No such question arises now. There is no vacancy."

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Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"I did not refer to any vacancy. I want to know from the hon. the Home Member whether the Government cannot find an Indian for this work?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"When a vacancy arises, that question will be considered."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I enquire whether when the vacancy occurred to which this man was appointed, an Indian was not found?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Every aspect of the question was considered then."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"May I know whether any attempt was made to find an Indian for the post?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The appointment was advertised."

Alleged payment of increased salary to Mr. Gilbert.

* 143 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Mr. Gilbert, the Superintendent of the Government Press, has been granted an additional salary of Rs. 200 per mensem ;

(*b*) whether the salary of Rs. 1,200 per mensem now given to him is higher than the salary paid to any Press Superintendent in the past ; and

(*c*) if so, what are the special reasons for granting this increase of salary to Mr. Gilbert?

A.—(*a*) The pay of the Superintendent, Government Press, was with effect from 1st April 1927 revised from Rs. 800—50—1,000 to Rs. 800—50—1,200. Mr. Gilbert who was then drawing Rs. 1,000 was allowed to start in the new scale on Rs. 1,050 under the ordinary rules.

(*b*) Rs. 1,200 which is the maximum of the present scale, is higher than the maximum pay allowed in the past.

(*c*) The revised scale was sanctioned on a consideration of the pay allowed to Superintendents in other Provincial Presses.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"What is the highest scale of pay offered to this post in other provincial presses?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—"What are the peculiar circumstances under which this able officer, Mr. Gilbert, is given an additional salary of Rs. 200?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The Government thought that he deserved this salary."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"Without any test please?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"We have tests of our own, Sir."